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III. *Part of a Letter from Mr. Witſen, Burger-
maſter of Amſterdam, and F. R. S. to Dr.
Martin Liſter, fellow of the Colledge of Phy-
ſicians, and R. S. concerning ſome late Ob-
ſervations in Nova Hollandia.*

Here is returned a Ship, which by our *East-India* Company, was ſent to the South Land, called, *Hollandia Nova*. The Maſter hath brought me Two Shells from that Country, hitherto not ſufficiently known, which he found on the Sea ſide, and I make bold to ſend you the Draught of them, the Shells themſelves being twice as long and broad as the Draught, and indeed I could not beſtow them better, than to one who hath the beſt Knowledge of theſe, and all other Sea Products.

On this Voyage nothing hath been diſcovered which can be any way ſerviceable to the Company. The Soil of this Country hath been found very barren, and as a Deſart; no Freſh-water Rivers have been found, but ſome Salt-water Rivers, as alſo no Four-footed Beaſts, except one as great as a Dog, with long Ears, living in the Water as well as on the Land.

Black Swans, Parrots, and many Sea-Cows were found there; as alſo a Lake, whoſe Water ſeemed to be Red, becauſe of the Redneſs of the Bottom of it: and round along the Shore there was ſome Salt. Our People had ſeen but Twelve of the Natives, all as black as Pitch, and ſtark naked, ſo terrified, that it was impoſſible to bring them to Converſation, or a Meeting: They lodge themſelves as the Hottentots, in Pavilions of ſmall Bran-

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ches of Trees. By Night our People saw Fires all over the Country ; but when they drew near, the Natives were fled. The Coast is very low, but the Country far from the Sea is high.

Upon the Island near the Coast have been seen Rats as great as Cats, in an innumerable Quantity ; all which had a kind of a Bag or Purse hanging from the Throat upon the Breast downwards. There were found many well-smelling Trees, and out of their Wood is to be drawn Oyl smelling as a Rose, but for the rest they are small and miserable Trees. There were also found some Birds nests of a prodigious greatness, so that Six Men could not, by stretching out their Arms, encompass One of them ; but the Fowls were not to be found.

There was great Store of Oysters, Lobsters, and Crabs ; as also of strange sorts of Fish.

There were also Millions of Flies, very much troubling Men. They saw a great many Footsteps of Men and Children, but all of an ordinary bigness. The Coast is very foul and full of Rocks.

The Subject of this Voyage was to get Intelligence of a Ship having on board Sir *James Couper*, with Three Hundred Men, which we thought to be stranded there ; but since we have understood that the said Ship hath been taken by some Pirates near *Madagascar*, and that the said Sir *James* was by them killed.

Amst. 3 Oct. 1698.

The Two Shells herein mentioned, are Printed in my Synopsis Conchyliorum, the one is the 1st Nautilus, the other the Concha Persica claviculâ radiatâ.